Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
27 August 2018

Original: English

Second session
23 April–4 May 2018

Summary record (partial)* of the 5th meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 25 April 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Bugajski ..... (Poland)

Contents

General debate on issue related to all aspects of the work of the Preparatory Committee (*continued*)

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of this meeting.

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

18-08753 (E)

Please recycle

The discussion covered in the summary record began at 12.05 p.m.

General debate on issues related to all aspects of the work of the Preparatory Committee (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Majali** (Jordan) said that the world was neither safer nor more secure than it had been at the time of negotiation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Nuclear weapons continued to pose a threat and non-proliferation and disarmament were far from being achieved. Nevertheless, the Treaty remained the foundation for international peace and security and the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. The Treaty also provided a framework for ensuring the right of States parties to access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. In that context, the goals of the Treaty could be achieved only through the balanced and comprehensive implementation of its three pillars.

2. Universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones were important steps in strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation, especially in the Middle East. The nuclear capabilities of Israel and the fact that that country's facilities were not monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to constitute a threat to both regional and international peace and security. Numerous resolutions and review conference outcome documents had reaffirmed the importance of the accession of Israel to the Treaty and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In that regard, her country regretted the failure to convene a conference on that subject in 2012, and underlined that such a zone should be established in accordance with the relevant resolutions and commitments, particularly the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference. Tangible steps towards implementing those outcomes and commitments should be established at the current session and the 2020 Review Conference.

3. States parties had a legitimate right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with article IV of the Treaty. Those peaceful uses contributed to economic and social development and prosperity. Jordan appreciated the important role of IAEA in supporting developing countries through its technical cooperation programme, and commended the Agency for its efforts to enhance international cooperation, including with regard to its programme in Jordan.

4. Speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, she said that the adherence of all Arab States to the Non-Proliferation Treaty reaffirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Those States had also placed all their nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards system and would continue their efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament.

5. The Group believed that the possession and development of nuclear weapons posed a grave threat to both regional and international peace and security, and that the only means of preventing the use of such weapons was to eliminate them. It therefore supported the observance of the annual International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September, and welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which complemented the Non-Proliferation Treaty. A date should be set for the holding of a high-level conference on disarmament to review progress achieved in that field.

6. The Group was concerned by the lack of real progress on nuclear disarmament, including the fact that neither the 1995 resolution nor the outcomes of the 2000 and 2010 review conferences had been implemented. The failure of the States parties to reach a consensus at the 2015 Review Conference and the procrastination of the nuclear-weapon States, including with respect to the establishment of a time frame for eliminating their nuclear weapons, made it all the more necessary for all parties to fulfil their responsibilities and step up their efforts to eliminate such weapons. The Group objected to the continued adherence by those States to military doctrines that permitted the use of nuclear weapons, even against non-nuclear-weapon States, in violation of negative security assurances. It was vital to establish international measures and unconditional commitments to protect non-nuclear-weapon States from the use or threat or use of nuclear weapons.

7. In that context, the Group regretted the failure to convene a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as agreed in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. At the 2015 Review Conference, the Group had sought to provide proposals to end the deadlock with respect to that issue. However, its efforts had been frustrated by three States, which had prevented the Conference from reaching an outcome on the matter. Ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction was the collective responsibility of the international community. The Arab Group had done everything within its power and urged other groups to do the same, as continued inaction in that area undermined the Treaty's credibility and threatened the entire disarmament and

non-proliferation regime. The Treaty's objectives would be achieved only if its implementation was universal. In view of the fact that Israel was the only State in the Middle East that had not acceded to it, the Arab Group called on the international community to place pressure on Israel to sign and ratify the Treaty and place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

8. A further factor on which the credibility of the Treaty depended was the balanced implementation of its three pillars. The Arab Group supported the inalienable right of States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including as a means of promoting sustainable development.

9. **Mr. Cabrera Hidalgo** (Ecuador) reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime, and to the Treaty's three pillars. As a country that promoted peace, justice and social equality, Ecuador supported the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there existed an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control; that conclusion was more relevant than ever. States neither would, nor could, abandon their common but differentiated responsibilities in the face of the limited progress on non-proliferation and the lack of any progress on nuclear disarmament.

10. In view of the risks posed to all humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, and the fact that all States were responsible for preventing their use, Ecuador was proud to have participated in negotiations concerning the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to have signed that Treaty on the day it had opened for signature. The Treaty represented an essential step towards disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons as it complemented and strengthened the existing non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, closing a legal loophole by expressly prohibiting nuclear weapons, as had previously been done with respect to chemical and biological weapons. Ecuador once again encouraged all States, including nuclear-weapon States, to sign and ratify the Treaty, thus facilitating its swift entry into force.

11. It was important to remember the declaration made by all States in the Final Document of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that nuclear arms weakened rather than strengthened international security. The international environment had become more complex and uncertain since the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference. For that reason, it was necessary to reaffirm that nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament were a priority for the international community. States must be vocal about their concerns regarding attempts to distort that clear and unwavering goal, including claims that nuclear disarmament depended on the creation of conditions that were presently only a long-term prospect.

12. The progress that had already been achieved must not be reversed. It was important to defend and preserve the still valid agreements reached at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 review conferences. Ecuador therefore reiterated its c .l for compliance with the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference, and expressed its willingness to achieve a positive outcome to the current session.

13. **Mr. Duong** Chi Dung (Viet Nam) said that his country's foreign policy was based on the principles of independence, sovereignty, diversification and multilateralization, combined with active regional and international integration. Viet Nam advocated peace, cooperation and development, and supported multilateral non-proliferation efforts with a view to the total elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. He therefore called for the accession by more States to the relevant international instruments, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

14. While it was necessary to ensure the balanced implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty's three pillars, he stressed that it was vital to accelerate progress on nuclear disarmament and therefore called for the effective implementation of the relevant Treaty provisions, particularly article VI. With regard to non-proliferation, he was encouraged by promising signs of progress in relation to the nuclear issue in North-East Asia, and looked forward to firmer commitments and the more vigorous implementation of regional treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones, which would provide security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States. He called on nuclear-weapon States to accede to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and the protocol thereto, and on all States parties to implement the outcomes of the 1995 Review Conference, including the 1995 resolution.

15. Viet Nam supported the inalienable and equal right of all States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and appreciated the support and technical assistance provided by IAEA to States parties, particularly developing countries, to ensure that they were able to do so in a safe, secure and peaceful manner. Viet Nam

would continue to cooperate closely with the Agency in that area.

16. The most effective means of contributing to the success of the review process was for States parties to individually and collectively fulfil their Treaty commitments. For its part, Viet Nam spared no effort in meeting its obligations under the Treaty and relevant Security Council resolutions. Political will, negotiation in good faith, transparency and inclusiveness were also important in ensuring the success of the review process, as were improved working methods, synergy and better coordination between the Chairs of each Preparatory Committee session. The joint efforts and renewed commitments of States parties would ensure the success of the 2020 Review Conference.

17. **Mr. Purevsuren** (Mongolia) said that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation required particular attention in light of the many challenges the global non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament process had faced in recent years. One such challenge was the failure of the States parties to adopt an outcome document at the 2015 Review Conference, which highlighted the need for more concerted efforts and, most importantly, greater flexibility in order to achieve a meaningful outcome to the 2020 Review Conference. It was also important to ensure the implementation of the outcome documents of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 review conferences; otherwise, the holding of review conferences would be meaningless.

18. The only viable way to maintain the vitality of Non-Proliferation Treaty was to give equal priority to its complementary pillars. The current stalemate over nuclear disarmament underlined the need for progress in the implementation of article VI of the Treaty. The vigorous implementation by the nuclear-weapon States of their unequivocal commitment to nuclear disarmament would significantly bolster the non-proliferation pillar. It was essential that all disarmament measures should be transparent, irreversible and verifiable. Mongolia called on the nuclear-weapon States to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their military doctrines and lower the operational status of nuclear weapon systems in order to reduce the risk of nuclear catastrophe. The Treaty's provisions, particularly article VI, had been strengthened by the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which would contribute to fulfilment of the Non-Proliferation Treaty's objectives.

19. If the credibility of the arms control regime was to be maintained and strengthened, disarmament and non-proliferation must be given equal priority. The Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was one of the key components of efforts to achieve non-proliferation, since it prevented the further development of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the entry into force of that Treaty was imperative if the non-proliferation regime was to be effective and viable. The Treaty had already proven its worth, one of its greatest assets being its effective verification mechanism. Mongolia was proud to be hosting four monitoring stations as part of the International Monitoring System. However, until the Treaty entered into force, the global regime prohibiting nuclear testing would remain fragile. The conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances was also essential to reinforce the confidence of non-nuclear-weapon States in multilateral mechanisms, and should be pursued as a matter of priority.

20. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy should also be at the forefront of efforts to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Mongolia commended the work of IAEA in verifying compliance with non-proliferation commitments and supporting States parties in exercising their inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Agency's technical cooperation programme was an indispensable part of its mandate and had a positive influence on the implementation of the Treaty and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was clear from the outcomes of technical cooperation projects in Mongolia that IAEA projects made a significant contribution to scientific progress and the sustainable socioeconomic development of recipient countries.

21. Nuclear-weapon-free zones and the status of Mongolia as a nuclear-weapon-free State made a major contribution to disarmament and non-proliferation. In addition to reinforcing the Treaty, such zones built confidence among the States located within them, thus strengthening both regional and global peace and security. One of the foreign policy objectives of Mongolia was to contribute to the international community's efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

22. The unique history of the Conference on Disarmament as the international community's only multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament provided impressive examples of the negotiation of international instruments that were complex in both nature and scope. However, the dismal failure of the Conference to adopt a programme of work had seriously undermined its role. The establishment of subsidiary bodies pursuant to Conference decision CD/2119, adopted in February 2018, would enable the Conference to engage in substantive discussions for the first time in

over 20 years, although it was not a substitute for the adoption of a programme of work; rather, it would facilitate attainment of that objective. Technical discussions must continue until the Conference's programme of work was adopted.

23. The potential transfer of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors who would be prepared to deploy them under any circumstances remained a dire threat that must be addressed, including through Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). That resolution provided a solid basis for the improvement of national controls by providing for assistance in the implementation of its provisions, and Mongolia was pleased to have been one of the first States to receive such assistance.

24. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his country's enduring commitment to strengthening Non-Proliferation Treaty norms.

25. Mr. **Kadiri** (Nigeria) said that the world was no safer now than in the past. Nuclear weapons remained a major threat to humanity and international peace, especially since they had become far more powerful over the years. The current existential threat that those weapons posed was unacceptable, and States parties must work concertedly to avert the catastrophic consequences of their use or the threat of their use. They must therefore ensure that the current session produced targeted outcomes and seize the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which was a pivotal instrument in achieving their collective goal of eliminating nuclear weapons.

26. The harnessing of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and human progress in line with article IV of the Treaty remained a priority. It was vital to protect the inalienable right of States parties to use nuclear energy to meet basic needs such as power generation, food security, health care, water management and environmental sustainability.

27. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were mutually reinforcing. Indeed, nuclear disarmament remained the only effective path to non-proliferation. Nigeria had demonstrated its enduring commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons through its implementation of a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol, its ratification of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, its sponsorship of General Assembly resolution 63/41 (2009), entitled "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems", and its signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which complemented the Non-Proliferation Treaty and strengthened the disarmament pillar.

28. As a member of the De-Alerting Group and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, Nigeria supported the measures proposed by those groups to increase transparency in nuclear disarmament, decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons, facilitate the entry into force of the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and commence negotiations regarding a ban on the production and stockpiling of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

29. The non-nuclear-weapon States must be given assurances against the threat of use of nuclear weapons under a legally binding framework. To preserve the mutual trust necessary to safeguard existing assurances, the moratorium on nuclear testing should be maintained. Nigeria supported the growing focus on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, an element firmly anchored in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and reflected in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. It also continued to welcome any step taken by nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear stockpiles, and expected those States to fulfil their legal obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. Nigeria encouraged those States that were not parties to the Treaty to reject or cease, as applicable, the development and testing of nuclear weapons, and in that regard welcomed the recent diplomatic initiatives relating to the Korean Peninsula.

30. Nuclear-weapon-free zones represented a genuine step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. Nigeria fully supported the establishment of such zones in all regions, including the Middle East. No nation would be safe in the event of an act of nuclear terrorism, and with that in mind, Nigeria supported all efforts to promote nuclear security. It was a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and other relevant instruments, and continued to make every effort at the regional and international levels to prevent nuclear terrorism.

31. Given the irrefutable benefits of nuclear disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament must overcome its inertia. Furthermore, States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and all States Members of the United Nations, must demonstrate commitment to disarmament. Nigeria was firmly committed to meeting its Treaty obligations and would engage constructively in the current session.

32. **Mr. Klymenko** (Ukraine) said that despite ever-changing international circumstances, the Non-Proliferation Treaty had retained its value over the past fifty years. In November 1994, Ukraine had set an

example by abandoning its nuclear capabilities and acceding to the Treaty.

33. Regrettably, however, the credibility and effectiveness of the non-proliferation and disarmament pillars of the Treaty had been seriously undermined. The violation by the Russian Federation of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) had damaged the entire United Nations-based security system. He underlined the obligation of nuclear-weapon States set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances. Moreover, the Russian Federation had seized Ukrainian nuclear facilities, installations and materials located in Crimea in violation of the IAEA statute. His country was concerned by evidence that the Russian Federation had deployed nuclear weapon delivery systems and renovated relevant infrastructure on Ukrainian territory in Crimea. Such actions by the Russian Federation as a nuclear-weapon State posed a direct threat to the global non-proliferation regime, significantly undermined the tireless efforts of the international community to eliminate nuclear weapons, threatened international security and increased the risk of a global arms race. Those actions were particularly serious given that the international security landscape was already facing considerable challenges, including the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In that context, he underscored the importance of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017).

34. Ukraine continued to support the concept of negative security assurances as a practical means of reducing insecurity, which was considered to be one of the key motives for developing nuclear weapon capabilities, and was seeking the adoption of an international legally binding agreement that would ultimately replace the Budapest Memorandum. Such an agreement must provide reliable guarantees of peace and security, including military support in the event of a threat to territorial integrity. The agreement should also include provisions on the procedure to be followed by the international community in responding to the encroachment by a nuclear-weapon State on the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of a non-nuclear-weapon State.

35. Complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament was the only way to protect humanity from the deadly consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. However, there was no quick solution to such disarmament, and the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was only one step in the right direction. Disarmament required a long-term approach involving practical steps and effective disarmament measures to be taken by the international community in a transparent, non-discriminatory, verifiable and irreversible manner, in order to build a system of mutually reinforcing instruments for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. In that respect, his country called for the universal implementation of the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the entry into force of which would constitute a tangible step towards attaining that goal. While the existing voluntary moratoriums on nuclear weapon tests were valuable, they were no substitute for a binding global ban. The conclusion of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices was also a priority. Negotiations on that treaty should begin immediately within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament.

36. Ukraine attached great importance to the global implementation and continuous improvement of the highest standards of nuclear security. Over the past four years, it had significantly strengthened its national system for the physical protection of its facilities and materials by developing, at all nuclear power plants, comprehensive plans of action in case of a crisis.

37. In the context of the global strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Ukraine was committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), its comprehensive safeguards agreement and its additional protocol, and contributed to international initiatives such as the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the work of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/SR.6

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
31 August 2018

Original: English

Second session
23 April–4 May 2018

Summary record (partial)* of the 6th meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 25 April 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Bugajski ..... (Poland)

Contents

General debate on issues related to all aspects of the work of the Preparatory Committee (*continued*)

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

18-08754 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

General debate on issues related to all aspects of the work of the Preparatory Committee (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Vargas Idiáquez** (Nicaragua) said that her country was fully committed to the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons — nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy — and considered it necessary to make progress in all three areas in a balanced and comprehensive manner. Nicaragua had always highlighted the importance of continuing to work towards total disarmament in relation to both nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the use of which violated the fundamental principles of international law, particularly in the area of human rights. In that regard, she expressed her country's solidarity with the heroic people of Japan and with the living witnesses of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons in that country.

2. It was unjustifiable and unacceptable that the nuclear-weapon States were investing ever greater sums in the development, modernization and testing of all types of weapons, and ever smaller sums in promoting the life and development of human beings. While millions of people suffered the effects of the economic crisis, poverty, hunger and disease, global military spending was increasing dramatically. She reaffirmed her country's support for the non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction. The total elimination of such weapons was the only way to prevent their use, threat of use and proliferation.

3. Recalling the commitment made by the Russian Federation and the United States of America pursuant to action 4 of the action plan contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, she highlighted that reductions in the deployment and operational status of nuclear weapons could not be a substitute for irreversible reductions in and the total elimination of such weapons. She reaffirmed the importance of the application by the nuclear-weapon States of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and international verifiability in all measures related to the fulfilment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments.

4. Nicaragua recognized that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was the only authority competent to verify States' compliance with their obligations under their respective safeguards agreements, and that it had a legal mandate with regard to global disarmament through safeguards. Strict compliance with IAEA comprehensive safeguards and the Non-Proliferation Treaty were preconditions for any type of nuclear-energy-related cooperation with States that were not parties to the Treaty. States parties must therefore refrain from transferring nuclear technology and material to such States unless those preconditions were fulfilled.

5. As a State party to the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, established under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), and as part of the "peace zone" declared by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Nicaragua firmly believed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones could strengthen the non-proliferation regime and international peace and security, and make an important contribution to the achievement of nuclear disarmament. In that regard, Nicaragua regretted the failure to convene a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Highlighting that that conference was an integral element of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, she urged the relevant parties to hold the conference as soon as possible.

6. While the deadlock in the disarmament process was often emphasized, a solution must be found to the real problem, namely certain States' lack of political will to achieve real progress, particularly with respect to nuclear disarmament. Such a solution was necessary for the achievement of the development goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. **Mr. Ouadah** (Algeria) reaffirmed his country's support for the universal implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, and for the balanced implementation of the Treaty's three pillars. Algeria had signed an additional protocol to its comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA in February 2018, which testified to its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. It had also acceded to and signed other relevant instruments.

8. The nuclear-weapon States must comply with their nuclear disarmament obligations in accordance with article VI of the Treaty, and with their commitments in relation to the thirteen steps and the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference. The adoption of a final document at the 2020 Review Conference would depend on the extent to which States parties were able to overcome their differences and focus on core disarmament issues, the package of decisions adopted at the 1995 Review Conference and the resolution on the

Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

9. The world still faced the threat of use of nuclear weapons. According to reports, nuclear-weapon States possessed more than 14,900 nuclear warheads, 4,150 of which were ready to be used, and spent billions of dollars on modernizing and upgrading the destructive capabilities of those weapons. The only guarantee against the risk of the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons was their complete and total elimination. Accordingly, Algeria welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which highlighted the destructive humanitarian consequences of such weapons, bridged a legal gap and complemented and strengthened the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also constituted a step towards the effective implementation of article VI to ensure the total elimination of such weapons. Pending the achievement of that objective, Algeria called for further progress and negative security assurances through the adoption of an international instrument to protect non-nuclear-weapon States from the use or threat of use of such weapons.

10. Highlighting the importance of non-proliferation in achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons, he stressed the need for the universalization and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It was also important to guarantee the safety and security of nuclear material, particularly in view of the increasing risk that such material might fall into the hands of terrorist groups.

11. The negotiation of a non-discriminatory and multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices should commence as soon as possible. Recent attempts to legitimize the nuclear status of States that were not party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty had been a cause of great concern. Turning a blind eye to such practices would only lead to the collapse of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

12. Recalling the importance of the Treaty for the development of and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he reaffirmed the inalienable right of all States parties to develop and conduct research in that area, as set out in article IV of the Treaty. It was also necessary to lift restrictions on the transfer of knowledge and expertise to developing countries so that those countries could build capacity with respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

13. Recognizing the vital role played by nuclear-weapon-free zones in achieving nuclear disarmament, Algeria had spared no effort in contributing to the establishment of such a zone in Africa, having been the first State to sign the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), and emphasized the need to implement the 1995 resolution in order to avoid further failures that would undermine the Treaty's credibility. He therefore called on the sponsors of the resolution and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make every effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. He hoped that the resolution would be implemented as soon as possible, and urged Israel to take practical steps to accede to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to place all its nuclear facilities and programmes under international monitoring and IAEA comprehensive safeguards, in compliance with the relevant resolutions.

14. **Mr. Kihurani** (Kenya) called on all States to comply with the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, regardless of their nuclear status, and, if they had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty, as its universalization was an important step towards international peace and security.

15. Kenya had joined others in supporting the adoption of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in order to delegitimize weapons of mass destruction. While it was clear that the ban would not lead to the immediate elimination of nuclear weapons, the adoption of the Treaty demonstrated States' recognition of the fact that nuclear war would result in devastation and that every effort should be made to prevent it. To that end, the Treaty was a catalyst for a change in attitudes, opinions and moral authority, and was necessary for garnering the political will among all nations, including those possessing nuclear weapons, to reconsider their military security doctrines and work towards eliminating nuclear weapons. The Treaty also complemented the Non-Proliferation Treaty and strengthened the commitments made under article VI of that Treaty.

16. The continued modernization by some States of their nuclear arsenals and delivery systems, and the ballistic missile tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, served only to undermine confidence in the Treaty as a primary guarantor of international security against the threat of nuclear weapons. In that regard, Kenya commended the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease its ballistic missile tests and dismantle its nuclear test site, which had effectively reduced tension on the Korean Peninsula. However, more work was required to build confidence and transparency between the parties concerned. Kenya was encouraged by the decision to hold diplomatic talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, and urged the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea to return to the Treaty. It was also important for nuclear-weapon States to comply with their Treaty commitments and to stop modernizing their nuclear weapons. That would not only be a crucial step towards disarmament, but would also assuage States' concerns regarding the threat of nuclear weapons and strengthen the Treaty's credibility.

17. The failure of the 2015 Review Conference had been yet another setback for the nuclear non-proliferation regime. While it was unfortunate that the Conference had concluded without a final document, thus perpetuating the lack of momentum on issues such as the implementation of the 1995 resolution, it was even more disheartening that the outcomes of earlier review conferences, including the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference and the thirteen steps, had only been partially implemented. Kenya therefore urged States to work towards meeting their obligations in order to build momentum towards a successful 2020 Review Conference.

18. As a State party to the Treaty of Pelindaba, Kenya recognized the value of such treaties, which had kept regions free of nuclear weapons and provided an additional safeguard against the threat that such weapons posed to humanity. If States retained their nuclear weapons, humanity's very existence would remain under threat. It was in that context that his country supported the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons to provide the countries of that region with similar protection.

19. Although the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was an important building block in the nuclear non-proliferation architecture, its implementation continued to be hampered by insufficient signatures and ratifications. Kenya therefore called on the Annex 2 States that had not signed or ratified the Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

20. His country firmly supported the inalienable right of States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, which was an important factor in promoting sustainable development. For many developing countries, including Kenya, nuclear energy played a crucial role in increasing capacity for electric power generation and driving industrialization. The peaceful use of nuclear energy went hand in hand with States' responsibility to ensure high levels of nuclear safety. Kenya recognized the central role of IAEA in nuclear security matters, as the only widely recognized intergovernmental organization concerned with all nuclear material and facilities. In that regard, Kenya was working closely with the Agency to build public trust and confidence in the development of nuclear technology in the country by developing a robust safety culture, including through capacity-building programmes aimed at establishing a base of well-trained human resources, the development of comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks and the implementation of pre-feasibility study findings. Kenya hoped that all countries that used nuclear energy for peaceful purposes could do so without interference in order to facilitate greater collaboration and increase the cost-effectiveness of nuclear technology through its increased use.

21. **Mr. Madi Elfatih Ali Ibrahim** (the Sudan) said that his country had actively participated in all efforts to achieve disarmament and had been one of the first States to adhere to the relevant international instruments.

22. The Sudan had led efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, which would enable IAEA to conduct verification missions. Israel was the only State in the region that had not acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

23. The Sudan joined calls for the unconditional elimination of nuclear weapons in view of the irreversible destruction they could cause, which threatened international peace. Nuclear non-proliferation would also increase trust in and the universality of the Treaty. However, non-proliferation efforts must not prejudice the safe development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly in the areas of health, industry, water and electricity, which would facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The prohibition of nuclear testing must not extend to the fields of technology and science for peaceful uses. Countries, particularly developing countries, should not be deprived of nuclear energy as a source of clean energy for economic and social development.

24. Negotiations to resolve nuclear-related conflicts must be carried out in accordance with international law and must be transparent, de-politicized and free of exploitation and preconceived hostile positions.

25. **Mr. Mushayavanhu** (Zimbabwe) said that the commitment shown by his country and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the Non-Proliferation Treaty had not been matched by any demonstration by the nuclear powers of good faith or political will to disarm.

26. Zimbabwe was particularly concerned by the unbalanced implementation of the Treaty's three pillars, and by the failure of the nuclear powers to take significant action in relation to the critical issue of

nuclear disarmament. Equal weight and attention must be given to both horizontal and vertical proliferation, as well as to the other pillars, namely the attainment of complete nuclear disarmament and unfettered access to and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

27. The total elimination of nuclear weapons and the legally binding assurance that they would never be produced again was the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons, and against a possible nuclear holocaust. His country was therefore unconvinced by the notion of a "progressive approach" to nuclear disarmament. Zimbabwe had supported the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and welcomed that important milestone as the first step towards achieving the total elimination of all nuclear weapons.

28. He expressed concern at the reckless brinkmanship and inflammatory rhetoric in the conduct of international relations, especially among the nuclear powers. It was of particular concern that the sessions of the Preparatory Committee had become monotonous rituals in accordance with which the States parties met merely to observe an occasion in the five-year review calendar. Indeed, his country felt betrayed by the nuclear powers and vindicated by events since the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. There was no pressure to disarm, and the non-nuclear-weapon States had no chips to bargain with and no cards to play. There was now consensus among the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations that since 1995, review conferences had only confirmed their worst fears about the unwillingness of certain States to disarm.

29. **Ms. Dallafior Matter** (Switzerland) said that the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Non-Proliferation Treaty was an opportunity to consider the road ahead with respect to the Treaty's full implementation. It was regrettable that States parties were far from achieving all the Treaty's objectives. Against the backdrop of a volatile situation reminiscent of the Cold War era, the Treaty must be preserved and strengthened and must continue to demonstrate its effectiveness. A successful review conference with tangible results would go a long way towards achieving those goals.

30. The current review cycle was taking place in the context of a number of challenges, but also opportunities for progress. The risk of a nuclear confrontation was clearly cause for concern, mainly in relation to the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Switzerland called on that country to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions and to return to the Treaty. In that context, Switzerland welcomed the moratorium on all nuclear testing announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as the emerging dialogue on its nuclear weapons programme, which it hoped would lead to a lasting diplomatic solution, and was ready to assist in facilitating such discussions if so requested by the parties.

31. The current rhetoric regarding the use of nuclear weapons was also extremely concerning. Certain nuclear-weapon States had been publicly promoting their nuclear capabilities and announcing new types of weapons, which ran counter to the commitments they had made under the Treaty. It was important to make every effort to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, halt any new nuclear arms race and avoid lowering the threshold for the use of such weapons. Rather than engaging in mutual threats, the nuclear-weapon States had a responsibility to engage in meaningful dialogue.

32. The weakening of existing norms and principles was also a source of concern. The rules-based international order helped to ensure the security of all. While it was a priority to safeguard and strengthen that order in a credible way, particularly with respect to nuclear weapons, there were signs that it was being eroded.

33. Through implementation of the joint comprehensive plan of action, IAEA had conducted extensive and rigorous verification activities, which had demonstrated compliance with the terms of the agreement. Despite that, the agreement was a source of tension. Switzerland encouraged all relevant parties to continue to comply fully with their obligations under the plan and to refrain from any action that undermined it.

34. The Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles was also encountering difficulties. Switzerland therefore called on all parties to comply with the Treaty, which was of paramount importance for stability in Europe.

35. The Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty had yet to be ratified by the Annex 2 States. The norm against nuclear test explosions must be maintained in view of its central role in the fight against vertical and horizontal proliferation.

36. There were also worrying signs that certain nuclear-weapon States were backtracking on their disarmament commitments by introducing preconditions for such disarmament. That worrying erosion of norms concerned not only nuclear weapons but also other types of weapons of mass destruction. It was not possible to remain silent in the face of such

developments. All States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty had an obligation to pursue policies that were fully compatible with the Treaty and its goal of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. The Treaty's provisions constituted a common road map and must be implemented.

37. The preservation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and the fulfilment by all parties of their commitments, particularly those made in 1995, 2000 and 2010, were essential for the maintenance of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. States could build trust in a simple way: by honouring their commitments and remaining true to decisions made.

38. Switzerland did not harbour any illusions that the monumental task of creating a safe world without nuclear weapons would be easy. The goal must nevertheless be pursued relentlessly and as a priority to ensure that nuclear weapons were never used again under any circumstances. Progress towards that goal would require willingness to overcome differences in a constructive manner. Noting the view expressed by several States that current conditions were not conducive to further progress on nuclear disarmament, she said that while Switzerland accepted that the international context was not optimal, it believed that States were responsible for creating the right conditions. The lack of progress on nuclear disarmament had resulted in the development of initiatives outside the Treaty's framework. It was essential that such initiatives reinforced the Treaty as the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

39. Progress was not only necessary but possible. The work carried out on the verification of nuclear disarmament was proof that broad cooperation was possible. Nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States were working together on one of the most challenging issues involved in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free world, which demonstrated their shared desire to implement article VI of the Treaty. Switzerland also noted positive developments related to the disarmament mechanism. Decisions made and actions taken by the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission provided an opportunity to address and make progress on a number of key issues, including those related to nuclear risk reduction, negative security assurances and fissile material.

40. During the current review cycle, clear progress had also been made on the third pillar of the Treaty. The Convention on Nuclear Safety had been strengthened by the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety of 2015, and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material had entered into force in 2016.

41. The 2020 Review Conference was fast approaching. Although ensuring a successful cycle would be a challenge, it was necessary for the health of the regime. It was essential for States parties to reflect on how their various views could be brought together in a single document. Several options should be explored. For example, States parties could consider whether a single comprehensive document, approved by consensus, was the most promising approach, or whether the chances of a positive outcome would be higher if issues were addressed separately. Switzerland suggested that States should make full use of the opportunities afforded by the Preparatory Committee to develop a shared understanding of the way forward. In order to foster a constructive dialogue for the 2020 Review Conference, a number of relevant proposals had been submitted. Switzerland supported the suggestion by the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament to move beyond repetitive statements and convene, within the framework of the third session of the Preparatory Committee, a meeting dedicated to interactive discussions on a number of issues.

42. **Mr. Macedo Soares** (Observer for the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) said that his organization was the sole intergovernmental organization entirely devoted to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, which was a matter of pride for the States of the region. As the five nuclear-weapon States and the Netherlands had ratified the two Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, that Treaty was fully effective. The organization was in the process of proposing to four of those States arrangements that would resolve the issues raised by them in their interpretative declarations in relation to the Treaty.

43. It was indisputable that the five non-nuclear-weapon zones, which had been established in accordance with article VII of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and covered more than half the Earth's surface, significantly enhanced international peace and security. Nevertheless, the question of establishing such a zone in the Middle East had resulted in the failure of the 2015 Review Conference. The Preparatory Committee should take that matter into special consideration to avoid a repeat of that outcome, which had negatively affected the entire non-proliferation regime.

44. No State ignored or challenged the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1999, according to which a nuclear-weapon-free zone should

be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. That guideline was so clear that it was unthinkable that any State outside a given region might impose on the States of that region the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons. Although there was no doubt that such a zone could be established without the participation of all States of the region concerned, as demonstrated by Latin America and the Caribbean, the process should involve all of those States. Since 1974, the 43 General Assembly resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East had been adopted by consensus, which meant by all the States in that region. The creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone did not prevent States outside that zone from contributing to its establishment. However, it should not be acceptable for such States to stand in the way of the wishes of the region concerned, as had been the case at the 2015 Review Conference.

45. Further nuclear-weapon-free zones should be created. If called upon to do so, the States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco would undoubtedly continue to contribute the expertise they had acquired over 50 years of fulfilling the Treaty's provisions and objectives.

46. Despite the difficult global situation, there were reasons for hope. Through the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the States parties to that Treaty, all of which were non-nuclear-weapon States, had made one of the most important contributions to the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

47. **Ms. Fernandez Moreno** (Observer for the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials) said that the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy of 1991, through which her organization had been established, constituted a milestone in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and was a critical non-proliferation tool between the two countries, which had promoted nuclear programmes for the region. That region was the first nuclear-weapon-free zone to have been established in a densely-populated area. The Agreement demonstrated the clear commitment of Argentina and Brazil to the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy, and recognized the sovereign right of each country to develop and use nuclear technology for its economy and social development and for the benefit of its peoples.

48. The application of the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials was based on the mutual trust between the two countries and on an independent and robust system administered by the organization to verify that nuclear materials were not diverted towards the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

49. The organization had earned international credibility as a result of its effective, efficient and independent verification of the nuclear activities of Argentina and Brazil and the continuous political commitment of and technical and economic support provided by the two countries. That was a corollary to the establishment of a deep and lasting relationship based on mutual trust between Argentina and Brazil, and proved that cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect between countries could make a significant contribution to regional and international security.

50. Her organization was rightly considered one of the most successful initiatives worldwide in nuclear non-proliferation. Lessons learned from its experience could serve as inspiration for other regions. Since its establishment, the organization had performed more than 3,000 inspections of nuclear facilities in both countries. In 2017, it had carried out approximately 100 inspections, an average of three inspectors participating daily in inspection missions. It continued to verify the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear activities, issuing independent and reliable technical conclusions.

51. The Quadripartite Safeguards Agreement between Argentina, Brazil, the organization and IAEA included well-defined provisions on the coordination of and cooperation in activities between IAEA and the organization and, in particular, established that the parties would minimize the duplication of activities and issue independent conclusions. The successful results obtained over the years with respect to the coordination of activities between the organization and IAEA reflected the high level of understanding and cooperation between the two agencies. Within that framework of cooperation, her organization was firmly committed to continuing to promote mechanisms and means whereby IAEA safeguards could benefit from the findings and conclusions of the regional mechanism provided for in the Quadripartite Safeguards Agreement and recognized by the review conferences.

52. Her organization wished to share its experience within that framework with a view to demonstrating the added value of the regional model to non-proliferation and to highlight its commitment to maintaining its technical effectiveness, independence and international credibility in the fulfilment of its mandate. She hoped that the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the 2020 Review Conference would reaffirm the relevance

of the model regional system established by her organization.

53. **Mr. Alsammak** (Observer for the League of Arab States) said that the Non-Proliferation Treaty was the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime, provided a basis for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and guaranteed the right of States parties to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

54. He was concerned by the importance that nuclear-weapon States attached to preserving and modernizing their nuclear weapons, which sent the message that such weapons were not illegitimate, but necessary to guarantee their own security and that of their allies. Reductions in nuclear weapons were no substitute for nuclear disarmament. Nuclear-weapon States should honour their commitments and implement article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of Decision 2 of the 1995 Review Conference, as well as the relevant measures established at the 2010 Review Conference.

55. While defence doctrines based on nuclear deterrence might be considered logical at the national level, they undermined cooperation and diplomacy at the international level. Although certain nuclear-weapon States had reduced the explosive capacities of their nuclear warheads, they continued to include such weapons in their defence doctrines, claiming that they could be useful in the future, including to protect non-nuclear-weapon States. Such an approach was in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, numerous Security Council resolutions and the unilateral declarations made in April 1995 granting positive and negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

56. The vision of a safer world free of nuclear weapons would only become a reality once the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty had been achieved. He therefore urged the international community to call on those States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to the instrument without preconditions.

57. The League of Arab States welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was an important addition to the nuclear disarmament regime and was in line with the League's own objectives, and recalled the important role played by civil society organizations in that regard. In discharging its responsibility as a regional organization, it called upon its member States to sign the Treaty.

58. The League of Arab States continued to stress the importance of developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the inalienable right of States parties established by article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in such a way that reduced the threat of nuclear proliferation and ensured compliance with the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. IAEA was the competent authority for conducting verification activities in accordance with the safeguards regime. He highlighted the Agency's crucial role in supporting States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly developing countries, and rejected any discriminatory methods that undermined the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

59. He was concerned by the lack of progress in the implementation of the 1995 resolution, which had been a key factor in the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The resolution would remain in force until its objectives had been fulfilled. The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction depended on the political will of the countries concerned. Since 1974, the League of Arab States had been working towards the establishment of such a zone and had presented many initiatives in that regard, including its call for the convening of an international conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Although that call had been supported by the overwhelming majority of States parties, it was regrettable that three States — including two depositary States — had prevented agreement on a final document of the 2015 Review Conference, thus benefiting Israel, which rejected the Treaty and refused to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. Those States had failed to consider the negative impact that their decision might have on the Treaty's credibility. The League of Arab States had adopted a unified position, namely, to adhere to the decisions of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 review conferences related to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It hoped that those decisions would be implemented with the support of the international community in a spirit of genuine and constructive cooperation, as a nuclear-weapon-free zone would be an important means of promoting transparency, peace and security at the global and regional levels.

60. It was unacceptable for States to strengthen their own security to the detriment of the security of others, particularly in the light of the many international instruments that promoted the principle of equal security for all and that imposed equal obligations on all States.

61. The League of Arab States hoped that the current and future work of the Preparatory Committee would pave the way for a successful 2020 Review Conference,

and that there would be a clear approach to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, consistent with the decisions of the United Nations and the commitments made under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other relevant international treaties.

62. In conclusion, the success of the Treaty depended on the extent to which its States parties, particularly nuclear-weapon States, were committed to fulfilling their obligations. He therefore hoped that the Review Conference would adopt a balanced approach to the Treaty's three pillars and avoid focusing on one pillar to the detriment of the others.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

63. **Mr. Smirnov** (Russian Federation) said that, despite having called on delegations to confine themselves to making constructive contributions related to the items on the agenda, unfounded accusations had continued to be made against the Russian Federation on issues that had long ago been clarified. His country had already given an explanation regarding the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) and on Crimea, which was an irremovable part of the Russian Federation. Any statements that distorted the real situation, including accusations by Ukraine, were therefore unacceptable.

64. The Russian Federation was participating in the session in a cooperative and constructive manner in order to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, and would continue to work in that spirit. If necessary, however, it would defend its position calmly and patiently until such a time as its partners recognized the inadvisability of making such unsubstantiated declarations.

65. **Mr. Klymenko** (Ukraine) refuted the misleading allegations that had been made against his country during the current session by the Russian Federation, which continued to impose its false hybrid narrative on the Committee in an effort to camouflage its aggressive actions that threatened not only Ukraine but also international peace and security.

66. He once again reminded the Russian Federation that the Crimean population had not been offered a legitimate choice or a free referendum. On the contrary, the Peninsula had been illegally occupied. In that regard, he drew the Committee's attention to General Assembly resolution 68/262 (2014), which had been overwhelmingly backed by the international community and which clearly supported the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. That resolution underscored that the referendum held on 16 March 2014 had no validity, and called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

67. With regard to the Budapest Memorandum, while it was true that the Russian Federation had not used nuclear weapons against Ukraine, which was prohibited by article V of the Memorandum, it had violated all other articles, including the commitments it had undertaken to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine; refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine; and refrain from economic coercion. He therefore urged the representatives of the Russian Federation to reacquaint themselves with the document, which their country had signed at the highest level. He also urged the Russian Federation to halt its aggression against Ukraine, cease its occupation of Crimea, demilitarize Crimea and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and begin to respect and implement international law.

68. **Mr. Smirnov** (Russian Federation) reiterated that his delegation had come to the session with a view to constructive and collaborative work on the agenda of the Preparatory Committee. Those States that wished to engage in anti-Russian rhetoric should find another forum in which to do so. However, States that wished to clarify issues of which they did not have a clear understanding were welcome to approach his delegation outside the discussions.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 4.25 p.m.